

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008181
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 /019 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:LL
APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY
IO/UNESCO:RCHEATER
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IO/UCS:RNOBBE

-----125518 120816Z /11

R 120010Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008181

NESCO

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UNESCO

SUBJECT: LIKELY VACANCY IN POSITION OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
GENERAL (ADG) FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

REF: PARIS 89

1. IN ORDER TO EVALUATE IMPLICATIONS OF REFTEL REPORT THAT
DG M'BOW DOES NOT INTEND TO REAPPOINT ADG HILDEBRANDT,
DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE PERMDEL'S VIEWS AND AVAILABLE INFORMA-
TION RE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(A) DOES IT APPEAR LIKELY THAT M'BOW WAS USING FOBES TO
INFORM US OF IMPENDING VACANCY IN POSITION OF ADG FOR SOCIAL
SCIENCES? IF SO, WHY? BECAUSE HE WANTED US TO TRY TO FILL
IT? HOW WOULD YOU RATE OUR CHANCES OF GETTING THIS POST?
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(B) HOW AND WHEN WOULD HIS DECISION NOT TO REAPPOINT
HILDEBRANDT BE MADE PUBLIC?

(C) ARE THERE ANY INDICATIONS THAT M'BOW MAY, IN RELATIVELY
NEAR FUTURE, CREATE ADG FOR COMMUNICATIONS?

(D) GIVEN M'BOW'S DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATION, COMMITMENT TO LDC'S, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, HIS PERSONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE "FREE FLOW" CONTROVERSY, AND THE HIGHLY POLITICIZED NATURE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEBATE IN UNESCO, WHAT WOULD BE OUR PROSPECTS FOR GETTING M'BOW TO APPOINT AN AMERICAN TO BE THE FIRST ADG FOR COMMUNICATIONS, IF THE POST WERE CREATED?

2. DEPT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR, WITH ITS DIFFICULT AND HIGHLY POLITICIZED PROBLEMS INVOLVING FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE "FREE FLOW" OF INFORMATION AND ISSUE OF STATE CONTROL, IS MORE CENTRAL TO KEY U.S. INTERESTS THAN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE SECTOR. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WISH TO DISMISS THIS (OR ANY OTHER HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS) AS A FALLBACK POSSIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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